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is unable to come to Atlanta, for the same reasons which would prevent many of us just now from going abroad. The great disappointment of the conference will be her absence, charter member and treasurer for all these years.

The President of the Nurses' Association of Finland, Mrs. Mannerheim, is coming to the conference in Atlanta. This is a great and also an unexpected pleasure. It will be Mrs. Mannerheim's first visit to America.

Miss Bergljot Larsson, whose coming we have already mentioned, left Norway the middle of March. Though she is especially coming to look into training systems, she will probably also come to Atlanta.

THE MECHANISM FOR DISPOSAL OF BACTERIA IN THE UPPER AIR PASSAGES

Despite the frequent presence of pathogenic bacteria in the upper air passages, both in health and in disease, it is clear that a highly effective mechanism is present in these localities which, except under extraordinary conditions, protects against invasion by foreign organisms. Were this not so, it is obvious that the spread of such organisms would soon become universal among the human race, with an attendant high incidence of disease. The effectiveness of this protective mechanism varies with various bacteria, and with the same bacteria at various times, as illustrated by the epidemiological facts of human disease. The details, however, of its action in particular instances of infection have not been completely worked out. A survey of the literature discloses studies on a number of factors which probably combine in making up the complex protective mechanism of the upper air passages. These factors may be classified as: (1) Mechanical (including the flushing action of secretions with the associated acts of swallowing and the ejection of nasal and mouth secretions); (2) chemical (including the effects of the reaction of the mouth and nose secretions with other possible bacterial inhibitory factors); and (3) biological (including such processes as phagocytosis and the effect of bacteria already present on the invader).—From the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*.